

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 SS-15
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R 031532Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6117
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY BERN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03854

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EINV, EGEN, UN, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: OECD-XCSS - ILLICIT PAYMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 41453, (B) BONN 3586

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH ECON/COMM MINISTER ON MARCH 1
OF U.S. VIEWS ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS, ECONMIN ASST.
SECRETARY STEEG COMMENTED THAT SHE HAD HOPED FOR MORE
FLEXIBILITY ON THE U.S. SIDE. SHE WELCOMED INDICATIONS
OF FLEXIBILITY ON OUR SIDE AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN
DETAILS. ECON/COMM MINISTER STRESSED THAT WE ARE NOT
RIGID IN OUR APPROACH, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THE U.S.
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ATTACHED CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THIS EFFORT TO
DRAFT AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT.

2. FRAU STEEG EMPHASIZED THAT FRG JUSTICE MINISTRY
STILL IS OPPOSED TO ANYTHING WHICH WOULD REQUIRE NEW
LEGISLATION. THIS RAISED ALL KINDS OF PROBLEMS HAVING
TO DO WITH CONFIDENTIALITY, ETC.

3. ECONMIN EXPERT GAYMANN, WHO TOOK PART IN THIS DISCUSSION, SAID THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO TO WASHINGTON FOR A MID-MARCH MEETING, BUT ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE CONVENIENT FOR HIM AS WELL AS FOR OTHER EUROPEANS TO MEET SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE, PERHAPS IN PARIS. AFTER NOTING THAT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT TABLED BY THE U.S. HAS BEEN TOO COMPREHENSIVE FOR MOST COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT AT THIS POINT, GAYMANN WONDERED WHAT THE U.S. PLANNED TO DO AT THIS MID-MARCH MEETING. IF THE U.S. ONLY WISHED TO EXPLAIN OR DEFEND ITS PRESENT PROPOSAL, HE THOUGHT THAT THIS COULD BE DONE WITH THE OECD COUNTRIES IN NEW YORK, JUST PRIOR TO THE ECOSOC SESSION. HOWEVER, IF THE U.S. IS SEEKING SOME FORM OF COMPROMISE MORE IN LINE WITH EUROPEAN VIEWS, THEN A MID-MARCH MEETING COULD BE MOST HELPFUL IN BREAKING THE PRESENT DEADLOCK. GAYMANN REITERATED GERMAN INTEREST IN LIMITING THE AGREEMENT TO VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES, ACCOMPANIED BY PROVISIONS FOR JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE. HE STRESSED THAT THE FRG IS NOT INTERESTED IN HAVING AN AGREEMENT WHICH PLACES OBLIGATIONS ON OECD COUNTRIES WHILE LDCS STAY OUTSIDE. UP TO NOW, AS FAR AS HE IS AWARE, THE G-77 HAVE GIVEN NO INDICATION THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO SUPPORT A BINDING AGREEMENT. CASH

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